Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 are now in the application. Claim 9 has been added. Support for claim 9 can be found on page 7, lines 8-10. No new matter has been added.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner has requested another copy of the signed oath. Enclosed herewith is another copy of the signed declaration.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner has indicated that the non-patent literature listed in the IDS dated May 10, 2002 was not considered because a translation was not provided. Enclosed herewith is a supplemental IDS including a statement of relevance for the literature in question.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that the specification does not define what DMA in "DMA controller" stands for. The specification has been amended to show that DMA stands for Direct Memory Access.

Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Notredame (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,390) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 7 call for, *inter alia*:

the raster processor storing the raster data column by column in the raster memory.

The instant application discloses a raster generation system for a printing machine with an image setting unit. Accordingly, a raster image processor is provided for the exposure of printing plates in a printing machine. The raster

image processing system contains a raster image processor for generating raster data from an image and a memory for storing the raster data. The memory storage is a random access memory. Claims 1 and 7 of the instant application recite that the memory for storing raster data stores data column by column in the random access memory. This is supported by page 7, lines 4-7 of the specification, where it is disclosed that the raster data are **generated** line by line and **stored** column by column already rotated through 90° in the FastScan format.

The Notredame reference discloses compressed merging of raster images for high speed digital printing with a page element cache (1011) and a merge system (1015) arranged after the RIP systems (1009) downstream, of the processing stream of raster data (Fig. 10). Notredame discloses that the page element cache (1011) and the merge system (1015) are the rapid merge system (1003) (column 13, lines 48-51). The rapid merge system is described in lines 43-58 in column 35, where it is disclosed that the page elements are available post ripping. Accordingly, the ripping in the raster image processor has already been finished and the so-called pre-final screening has been done. In this case, the ripped images include CT data and LW data. This is part of the run length encoded method (RCE).

There is further disclosure in Notredame that Notredame does not disclose a raster image processing system. More specifically, Notredame discloses that the RIP data has to be compressed before storing and transmitting to the printing device (column 2, line 62 to column 3, line 8). Such compressed date can include line work data (LW data) and continuous tone data (CT data). The compressed digital data is sent to a printing device (1019) (Fig. 10), which has nothing to do with an image setter for exposing printing plates for printing machines. Instead, Notredame relates to digital printers or copiers. Therefore, Notredame discloses that the arrangement of raster data row by row or column by column during the RLE process takes place in the memory of the rapid merge system (1003). The rapid merge system (1003) is not the memory of the raster image processor (column 35, lines 44-58).

The present invention as claimed discloses a storing method in the memory of the raster image processor and not to a further post processing system. In an image setting unit for a printing press, data compression is useless because the image setter must expose the printing plate pixel by pixel and therefore needs the full information in **uncompressed** form.

As seen from the above given remarks, the reference does not show the raster processor storing the raster data column by column in the raster memory, as recited in claims 1 and 7 of the instant application. The Notredame reference does not disclose storing raster image date in a raster image processor memory column by column. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the raster processor stores the raster data column by column in the raster memory.

In item 7 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 2-5 have been rejected as being obvious over Notredame (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,390) in view of Agarwal (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0022815) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Agarwal reference has a filing date of May 18, 2001. The instant application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/270,685, filed February 22, 2001. Therefore, the Agarwal reference is not available as prior art.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 7. Claims 1 and 7 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and

since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 7, they are believed to be patentable as well.

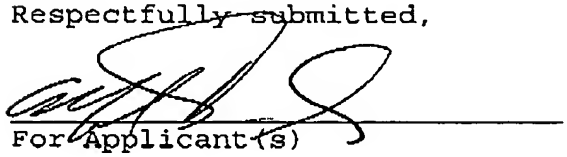
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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